

REMARKS

By the current Amendment, Applicants have amended claim 3 to be consistent with the disclosure of the application, and with the amendment to claim 1 that was made in the Response filed November 1, 2005. Applicants respectfully submit that entry of the present amendment is proper under 37 C.F.R. § 1.312 since it is necessary for proper protection of the invention and does not require any additional search and/or examination on the part of the Office.

Although this Amendment is being submitted after the mailing of the Notice of Allowance and although amendments may not be made as a matter of right after the mailing of the Notice of Allowance, Applicants submit that the entry of the herein contained amendment is appropriate to enhance the clarity of the claim language and accordingly, respectfully request the Examiner to exercise his discretion and to indicate the entry of the amendment contained herein under the provisions of 37 C.F.R. § 1.312.

The change introduced by the present amendment does not continue the prosecution of the application after the Notice of Allowance. Rather, this amendment has merely been made merely for clarification. Accordingly, it is submitted that this amendment is proper to enter at the present time.

The above amendment further does not require a substantial amount of additional work on the part of the Patent and Trademark Office. No new issues are raised by the above-amendment; nor is the disclosure of the present application so complex as to require an undue amount of additional work on the part of the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office. Accordingly, Applicants submit that under the criteria set forth in the M.P.E.P., the

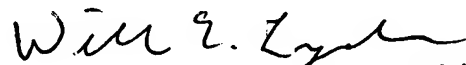
P24305.A05.DOC

present amendment should be considered and entry thereof should be recommended by the Primary Examiner.

For all of the above reasons, it is respectfully requested that the Examiner enter the present amendment to claim 3. Entry of the above amendment is believed to be appropriate and is respectfully requested from the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office.

Should the Examiner have any questions or comments regarding this response, or the present application, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at the below-listed telephone number.

Respectfully submitted,  
Atsushi KOYAMA et al.



Bruce H. Bernstein  
Reg. No. 29,027

William E. Lyddane  
Reg. No. 41,568

December 1, 2005  
GREENBLUM & BERNSTEIN, P.L.C.  
1950 Roland Clarke Place  
Reston, VA 20191  
(703) 716-1191